

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 05660 051714Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 W

-----051806Z 070045 /46

P 051701Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2389

UNCLAS LONDON 05660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OEXC

SUBJECT: FRIENDSHIP FORCE FLIGHT TO UK

REF: STATE 73861

1. EMBASSY CONVINCED BY CONVERSATION WITH JOHN MORGAN THAT FCO MAKING URGENT EFFORT GET BRITISH FF COUNTERPART ORGANIZED IN TIME TO ENABLE JULY 4-5 EXCHANGE.

2. FIRST HURDLE IS ORGANIZATIONAL: FCO HAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO WORKING THROUGH JOINT TWINNING COMMITTEE, NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUP (WITH FCO REPRESENTED ON BOARD) WHICH HAS HANDLED LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF SISTER-

CITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN CITIES OVER SPAN OF MANY YEARS. COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY WENT QUICKLY INTO ACTION ON THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH WARMLY WELCOMED, AND OPENED DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, YORK, CARDIFF. RESPONSE FROM NEWCASTLE MOST PROMISING, BUT TOWN CLERK MUST NOW CARRY BALL TO CITY COUNCIL FOR REAL DECISION.

3. IF COUNCIL DECISION AFFIRMATIVE IN PRINCIPLE, PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS STILL PRESENT PROBLEM: WITH ALL GOOD WILL POSSIBLE, DIFFICULT FIND 250 IN CITY  
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PAGE 02 LONDON 05660 051714Z

SIZE OF THESE (NEWCASTLE POP. 295,000) WHO ARE PREPARED ON THREE MONTHS NOTICE TO LEAVE HOUSE AND TOWN FOR TEN DAY VISIT TO US. THIS KIND OF VENTURE LIES OUTSIDE BOUNDS OF CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF BRITISH PROVINCIAL TOWN. ADDITIONAL FACTORS ARE PULL OF QUEEN'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS HOLDING ATTENTION HERE, AND POSSIBLY FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THESE TIMES OF

ECONOMIC PINCH.

4. ALL THIS NOTWITHSTANDING, MORGAN SAYS EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE TO GET PROJECT OFF GROUND FOR JULY 4 FLIGHT FROM ATLANTA AND JULY 5 BRITISH DEPARTURE FROM UK CITY, THOUGH HE CAUTIONS A YEAR'S NOTICE WOULD HAVE BEEN DESIRABLE. HE WILL KEEP EMBASSY POSTED ON DEVELOPMENTS.

5. MORGAN SAID HE WOULD BE CALLING HUNT TO REPORT STATUS OF PROJECT.

6. IN EMBASSY VIEW, FF SPONSORS SHOULD BE CAUTIONED AGAINST EXERTING TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON BRITISH WHICH COULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON FRIENDLY EXCHANGE INTENDED. BRITISH SIDE CLEARLY AOPRECIATE GOOD WILL AND HOSPITALITY BEING EXTENDED BY ATLANTANS, EAGER WELCOME THEM HERE, BUT COULD BE EMBARRASSED IF PRESSED TO MEET DEADLINE WHICH MAY APPEAR ARBITRARY TO THEM AND WHICH PRESENTS DIFFICULTIES THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OVERCOME COMFORTABLY IN INTENDED SPIRIT OF PROJECT.  
MILLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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